12/28/68

Dear Lou,

Please do not forget to give Burton the word on Rose, for I think it unwise to assume we've heard and felt the last of that kind of thing and its effects.

A short while ago I wrote Moo suggesting that he get Tom to Xerox copies of the notebook he kept when he was working at the Archives. His call last night about the Julia Ann Mercer document in CD 205 serves to remind me of the importance of this, which I will explain.

First, I do not want you to assume that in saying Tom missed things he was, ipso facto, incompetent. We must remember that in the almost two years since then we have learned many things, and what then looked insignificant can today loom large in importance.

Then, he had an attitude I believe is comprehensible, but it led him to be exceedingly uncooperative. I got nothing from him, yet I gave him what I could, did for him what I could. I suppose this is because he felt he owed your office exclusively what he learned. Once I detected the federal interest in Tom, I felt it was necessary for his security and his best possible performance of his task, that I disassociate myself from him as much as I could after getting a bibliography for him and turning my account over to him. From time to time, as I'd learn things, I'd get word to him. However, I never did learn from him what he knew. I assumed he learned what would have been in going over those files most relevant to New Orleans. I was surprised to learn that he did not use my account to get copies of documents, but I assumed he sent his notes in and on that basis they were ordered. It was quite a shock to me to learn that you are missing all the valuable New Orleans material in the Archives, as, for example, what we have just supplied you on Oswald and his literature.

CD 205 is one of the major files he should have ransacked. When Moo phoned me last evening to say he had no answer in the file on the thing Thompson has on page 218, that Julia Ann Mercer was shown pictures of Oswald and several of his New Orleans associates, and this on 11/25/63, again, I was shocked, for this is the kind of thing you should have, if only to say it was false, or that the pictures were misleadingly described,etc. Now there is little than can be done immediately, for the Shaw trial, unless a quick reading will give me clues, and this is possible. However, there will be much to be done after the Shaw trial, perhaps even during it. Therefore, I again strongly encourage you to have Tom xerox all his notebooks. You certainly should have a couple of copies in the office after he leaves. I also think that Gary Schoener, Paul Hoch and I should have copies as soon as possible, for what use we can put them to, immediately, for your purposes, and for purposes of general research. I find that Tom's recollection, like that of all of us, with the enormity of the material, is not infallible. Last time I asked him about an FBI report he discussed with me once at the Archives, of a mysterious plane flight over Brownsville, to and from Mexico, terminating at New Orleans. He then dismissed it on the ground it could not have been Ferrie. Assuming this to be true, we can now understand that with Ferrie not the pilot, the flight could be significant, or that, on a date other than as a get-away pilot, such a flight by Ferrie could still be significant. He does not remember the report. I think it possible his notes might disclose it. So, please, as soon as you can, get his notebooks and have a girl copy them. Meanwhile, if the CD205 is not put away for the weekend, Gary will check it today. If it has the data Moo wants, Gary will phone it to me and I'll have it for Moo. If that file is not out, I'll check it Monday or Thursday, when I'll be in Washington.

Best regards,